

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we have seen this before. At the last minute, when they think nobody is looking, the special interests are launching a sneak attack on our environment.

A bill that is supposed to provide support for our pilots overseas is being hijacked in a secret assault on our environment here at home. These so-called riders could never pass on their own.

These so-called riders would open up the pristine waters of Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park to destructive commercial fishing; another would throw open the American west to more giant strip mines, with the dangers of chemically bleached waste leaching into our waters and the specter of cyanide poisoning in our rivers and streams. And the list goes on and on.

These anti-environment riders have no place in the emergency supplemental conference report. We need to pass the bill to support our troops this week, not drag it down with a series of unpopular, unrelated and unacceptable anti-environmental riders.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of the rest of our life. Kind of an old 1960s pop culture saying that Jonathan Livingston Seagull was very proud of.

If we look at this week, today is the first day of the rest of our taxpaying year to be tax free, because as of yesterday we start working for ourselves. We have paid off our debt as a serf for Uncle Sam and big government. We will all continue to pay lots of taxes here and there, but generally speaking we are through. From now on we get to keep our money.

Think about the tax burden just in income tax. Today, the average American family pays 24 percent. In the 1970s, it was 16 percent. In the 1950s, it was 5 percent.

Now, what does that mean? Everybody is busy. Everybody is busy as heck in the 1990s. I know, I have four kids, and all my friends are running around. It is nothing but a treadmill. Because of that, we do not have enough time as families to sit down and impart information to each other, to train our kids, to help them with their homework and bring them up with the good moral values we need to run a country.

One of the by-products becomes tragedies such as what happened in Littleton. Families need to spend more time with each other, particularly with their children, and our tax burden prohibits it right now. We need to lower taxes.

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DO NOT NEED MORE MONEY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on the other side they are talking about lower taxes. That means saving money. On the other side they are talking about dumping more money into the intelligence services, who already have a \$30 billion a year budget. Sometimes this place reminds me of Alice in Wonderland.

Think of a parallel. When our kids fail the achievement tests, what do they say, more money for education? They say, no, we need to reorganize, we need to overhaul, we need to revitalize, we need vouchers, we need change. Now, when the CIA fails in its most basic mission on a multibillion dollar budget, they say they need more money.

Guess what? Here is the information they needed. Where did I get it? This came from the Congressional Research Service. It is publicly available. Maps of Belgrade on line. Here is the embassy. That is where it has been for 5 years. Here is where it used to be 5 years ago.

Well, maybe they did not know the current address. They could have gone to the web site, which is put up by the City of Belgrade and the government of Yugoslavia, which has the address. They could have got a phone book, but they probably do not have anybody who can read Serbian. I guess that is why they need more money. Maybe they need more money to go down to the bookstore and pay \$19.95 for a Michelin map.

They do not need more money. They need to spend it better, they need to be reorganized, and some people need to be fired.

WILL CHINESE ESPIONAGE SCANDAL BE DISMISSED AS EASILY AS OTHER SCANDALS

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I can only guess what the response of the knee-jerk Clinton defenders will be as the whole country learns just how bad the Communist Chinese espionage scandal is. Will they dismiss this scandal, too, claiming, "Everyone lies about treason."

We have heard so many excuses so many times about so many scandals during the most unethical administration in history. It does not matter, they say. Everyone does it.

The President stated he was unaware of any Chinese espionage and that it had taken place on his watch. But now we have Energy Secretary Bill Richardson admitting that, in fact, a report was prepared and delivered to the

President on exactly that subject in November of 1998.

Even more amazing is that the President's and the Vice President's first reaction to the news of this Chinese spying scandal was to, that is right, blame it on Ronald Reagan.

Then we find out the most serious stuff occurred during the Clinton years of 1994 and 1995. Why? Why, I ask, did the Justice Department sit on its hands for 3½ years, 3½ years, while Americans have to rely on a New York newspaper to get to the bottom of it?

NUCLEAR WASTE AND THE ATOMIC TRAIN MOVIE

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, not only are the nuclear power industry lobbyists trying to conquer common sense with dollars in Congress, they are trying to do the same thing to the entertainment industry.

I was shocked and dismayed to read in The Washington Post TV column that NBC has caved in to nuclear industry pressure and politely changed the name of the atomic train's cargo from nuclear waste to hazardous materials. What semantic nonsense.

If anyone is able to tell the difference between the two, it would be the people of the State of Nevada, who are fighting a bill that would dump all of the Nation's nuclear waste in our backyard, 77,000 tons of it.

This just is not Nevada's fight. Most of America would be put at risk by H.R. 45, the Nuclear Waste Transport bill. On April 28 I sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to my fellow Members of Congress, pointing out that although the movie is fiction, the threat is real.

Let me ask my colleagues this: When the first inevitable crash occurs, where would they want to be living? Would they want to be living in that neighborhood?

I challenge NBC to stand up for public health and safety rather than caving in to the nuclear power industry lobbyists.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS BY LOWERING TAX BURDEN

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to some of the speeches from my very distinguished colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I have yet to hear anyone talk about this issue of tax freedom day.

I was stunned when I first saw the chart the gentleman from Staten Island, New York (Mr. Fossella) used during his speech, which sees this continued increase in the time during which people have to work for the government before they can keep even a nickel for themselves.

We in this Congress stand firmly for empowering individuals and making sure that they can make choices for themselves. How better can we do that than by allowing them to keep more of their own hard-earned dollars?

I have introduced legislation calling for a reduction in the top rate on capital gains. We are considering a complete overhaul of the Internal Revenue Code, whether we go towards a flat rate tax or a consumption tax. We want to make sure that rather than May 11, that people much, much earlier will be able to begin saving some of their own dollars rather than having to work to keep this Federal Government going.

So we stand, on this side, firmly for reducing that tax burden on working families. Unfortunately, my friends want to talk about all kinds of other stuff.

GUNS AND JUVENILE CRIME

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, today the Senate will debate a series of measures aimed at keeping firearms out of the hands of juveniles and convicted criminals.

As the original House sponsor of three of these measures requiring background checks at gun shows, raising the minimum age for possession of handguns from 18 to 21, and preventing violent juveniles from being able to buy guns when they turn 21, I call on the House leadership to allow a full debate on these important public safety measures.

□ 1030

It is not often that gun control advocates and the gun industry see eye to eye; but in the wake of last month's tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, a consensus is emerging that our gun laws need to be stronger.

The American Shooting Sports Council, the National Alliance of Stocking Gun Dealers and leading gun manufacturers now agree we need to close the deadly loophole that allows kids and criminals to purchase firearms at gun shows.

The lack of background checks at gun shows have made them prime targets for criminals and gun traffickers, where kids and dangerous criminals can purchase guns with no questions asked.

Mr. Speaker, making it harder for kids and criminals to get guns are not cure-alls. But Elizabeth Dole had it right when she said, it is time for the Republican party to stop allowing the National Rifle Association to dictate the Congressional agenda.

BASIC STEPS FOR IMPROVING OUR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago, America learned a terrible lesson: Our culture is producing teenagers who are capable of unspeakable violence. We, as a country, must come together to address this complex problem. It is one that requires several answers.

We have students who attend schools without guidance counselors. We have children exploring violent websites alone at night. We have handguns sold and resold without basic safety features or background checks. Our children grow up in a world that is unlike the one that I grew up in.

We need to take basic steps to improve our cultural environment. Families must embrace their children's questions, ideas, hopes and dreams. Adolescence is a difficult time. Our schools must be safe without becoming prisons. Classrooms should be small enough for strong discipline and individual attention. Schools must have guidance counselors and mental health services that presently are shamefully lacking.

Handguns should come with safety locks. Firearms should not be sold to children under 21. Background checks at gun shows, period. The entertainment industry must clean itself up and stop marketing violence to our children.

Let us take these steps together and invest in a stronger America.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORISM

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, the Congress voted to have a national commission to study terrorism; and to date the Congress has not acted on the funding on that commission.

Today I will be offering an amendment in the supplemental to have the funding for that commission. With all the terrorist activity that is taking place, the CIA killings in my congressional district, the World Trade bombing, the bombing of embassies by Osama Bin Laden and others, for Congress not to act on putting the funding in at this time would absolutely be a disgrace.

This is so important that we ought to have a bipartisan commission that looks to making sure that everything that possibly can be done to deal with the issue of terrorism is being done.

AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT OPEN DEBATE ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. McCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, a number of us here today are talking about trying to save our children.

The tragedy that happened in Littleton, Colorado, last month certainly struck this Nation. What a lot of people do not know is that we lose 13 children every single day. That is a classroom every 2 days. I am hoping that here, in Congress, we will address this in a bipartisan way.

Because the American people want their children to be safe. There are solutions that we can come to. There are solutions that we can work together on to try to save our children on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the people of America to call and e-mail all their Congressmen and say, "We want an open debate." Let this not be a fight. Let us do the right thing. Let us have the debate. Let us talk about all the things that we see going wrong and try to make a correction.

That is why I came to Congress. That is why I am here, to try to reduce gun violence in this country.

TEEN SMOKING IN AMERICA IS A CRISIS

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, teen smoking is a crisis which threatens the health and lives of thousands of our youth every day.

As a result of the recent settlement between the individual States and the tobacco industry, a marvelous opportunity presented itself to this Congress, an opportunity to show our dedication to our children by assuring that part of the billions of dollars that will be paid to the States would be spent on teenage smoking. Sadly, many in this body on both sides of the aisle are unwilling to assure that even one penny of this clearly anti-tobacco money is spent to stop smoking amongst our youth.

Why is it important? One, \$78 billion is spent every year on tobacco-related health expenses; \$35 billion in extra tax burden faces American taxpayers every year as a result of smoking-related costs; 1.1 million kids begin smoking every year. And the list goes on and on.

Now, contrary to what some might say, this is not a partisan issue. This most recent battle against teen smoking has seen Members of both parties fighting both for and against tobacco control. As one who has been fighting to end teen smoking for many years, I applaud Members from both parties for their support of tobacco control and express my disappointment that leaders from both parties have refused to take a stand against teenage smoking.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time we need strong leadership in this area, it is now.

JUVENILE VIOLENCE AND GUN SAFETY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1